

DEFENSE OPENED IN BIDWELL CASE

Funston One of Five Giving Testimony on Character

By DAVID ANDERSON

Five character witnesses testified in United States District Court yesterday on behalf of J. Truman Bidwell, former chairman of the New York stock exchange, who is charged with income tax evasion in 1956 and 1957.

Keith Funston, president of the Exchange, said he had known Mr. Bidwell eleven years and that his reputation was "the very highest, most outstanding" in respect for law, integrity and truthfulness.

Coleman a Witness

Admiral Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency and former Commandant of the Third Naval District here, said he had "never heard a contrary word" about Mr. Bidwell.

The Rev. John A. Bell, rector of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, Madison Avenue at 35th Street observed: "There can be absolutely no question, he is a man of utter integrity. One simply never thought of discussing it at all until this unpleasant event. Since it began I have never heard anyone cast the slightest doubt on him."

John A. Coleman, a governor of the Stock Exchange, asserted that Mr. Bidwell's standing in Wall Street was "of the highest."

Leslie Gould, financial editor of The New York Journal-

American, said he was "rated the best broker on the floor [of the Stock Exchange]." Mr. Bidwell was chairman of the board of the exchange which he was indicted seven months ago.

The Government rested its case before the luncheon recess. The last prosecution witness, Glenn D. Smith, a technical adviser with the Internal Revenue Service, submitted a revised set of statistics on Mr. Bidwell's taxes. It read as follows.

For 1956—taxable income, \$11,239.67; tax liability, \$59,917.29; tax calculation of tax in return, \$28,116.03; deficiency, \$31,801.26.

For 1957—taxable income, \$98,209.38; tax liability, \$52,001.17; calculation of tax in return, \$26,919.19; deficiency, \$25,081.98.

Overstated deductions in 1956—travel, \$7,622.76; bonuses paid out, \$12,633.83; contributions to charity, \$10,941; entertainment, \$9,809.40.

Overstated deductions in 1957—travel, \$7,207.14; bonuses paid out, \$9,541; contributions to charity, \$11,619.66; and entertainment, \$8,680.78.

The "overstatement" on deductions refers to the difference between those taken from worksheets prepared by Mr. Bidwell's secretary and the amounts he claimed in his income tax return.

U. S. Aide Testifies

Robert Walker, an Internal Revenue Service special agent, was called as a defense witness to testify on the cooperation he received from the defendant and his office. Among the documents asked for and received by the prosecution, he said, were statements relating to the estate of the late Thelma R. Einstein, the second wife of Mrs. Bidwell's maternal grandfather, Isaac D. Einstein. The Government con-

siders the estate an important source of funds for the family.

Much of the testimony from the character witnesses concerned elaborate entertaining by the Bidwells, such as dinners for twenty to fifty guests, in their apartment at 290 Park Avenue. Also treated extensively were Mrs. Bidwell's Navy League and the Youth Consultation Service activities.

Judge Thomas F. Murphy denied a defense motion to dismiss the indictment on the 1956 count but reserved decision on the 1957 count. The Government argued that a continuing pattern links the two counts. Most of the emphasis, in its case, however, has been placed on 1956.

The trial was adjourned until 10:30 A.M., Thursday, Sept. 27, in the United States Court House on Foley Square.